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OCT 27 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Andrea C. Hughs-Baird et al.
Appl. No.: 09/686,308
Filed: October 11, 2000
Title: GAMING DEVICE HAVING INTERACTING SYMBOLS
Art Unit: 2876
Examiner: Daniel St.Cyr
Docket No.: 0112300-0144

Mail Stop: Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH M.P.E.P. § 711.03 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.181**

Sir:

Applicants received a Notice of Abandonment which was mailed by the Patent Office on January 2, 2004 for failure to timely file corrected drawings as required by the Notice of Allowability mailed by the Patent Office on August 13, 2003. However, Applicants timely filed formal drawings on September 29, 2003. Thus, Applicants request that the holding of abandonment be withdrawn.

Applicants submitted formal drawings on September 29, 2003 in response to the Notice of Allowability. Enclosed is a copy of the postcard submitted with the formal drawings which was stamped by the Patent Office showing that the Patent Office received the formal drawings on October 3, 2003. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is not abandoned. Applicants request that the abandonment of this application be withdrawn because the Notice of Allowability was timely responded to. The issue fee was also timely paid on November 10, 2003.

A complete copy of all documents submitted with the formal drawings is enclosed, including the following:


1. Stamped Postcard
2. Transmittal of Formal Drawings
3. Copy of set of previously submitted Formal Drawings (13 sheets)
4. Set of Formal Drawings (13 sheets)
5. Stamped Postcard
6. Copy of Express Mail Certificate
7. Copy of check no. 020189
8. Certificate of Express Mail
9. Transmittal of Payment of Issue Fee
10. Form PTOL-85

Applicants believe that no fee is due for this petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.181 and M.P.E.P. §711.03 because the Notice of Abandonment was erroneously mailed by the Patent Office. However, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any petition fee and any other fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY:


Adam H. Masia
Reg. No. 35,602
P.O. Box 1135
Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135
Phone: (312) 807-4284

DATED: January 22, 2004